

Application No.: 10/730238

Case No.: 59445US002

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

1.-13. (Canceled)

14. (Currently Amended) A method of making a crosslinked polymer comprising the steps of:

a) providing a polymer comprising first pendent groups which include a group according to the formula  $-\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$ ; and

b) crosslinking said polymer by a process that comprises removal of the  $-\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$  group;

wherein said polymer additionally comprises second pendent groups which include a group according to the formula  $-\text{SO}_2\text{X}'$  wherein each  $\text{X}'$  is independently selected from the group consisting of F and  $-\text{OH}$ ;

~~The method according to claim 7~~ wherein said method additionally comprises, after said step b), the step of:

d) converting any remaining groups according to the formula  $-\text{SO}_2\text{X}'$  to sulfonic acid groups.

15.-18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently Amended) A method of making a crosslinked polymer comprising the steps of:

a) providing a polymer comprising first pendent groups which include a group according to the formula  $-\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$ ; and

b) crosslinking said polymer by a process that comprises removal of the  $-\text{SO}_2\text{Cl}$  group;

~~The method according to claim 1~~ wherein step a) of providing a polymer comprises the steps of:

e) providing a polymer comprising pendent groups which include a group according to the formula  $-\text{SO}_2\text{F}$ ; and

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- f) converting at least a portion of said  $\text{-SO}_2\text{F}$  groups to  $\text{-SO}_2\text{Cl}$ .

20. (Currently Amended) A method of making a crosslinked polymer comprising the steps of:

- a) providing a polymer comprising first pendent groups which include a group according to the formula  $\text{-SO}_2\text{Cl}$ ; and

- b) crosslinking said polymer by a process that comprises removal of the  $\text{-SO}_2\text{Cl}$

group;

~~The method according to claim 1 wherein step a) of providing a polymer comprises the steps of:~~

- e) providing a polymer comprising first pendent groups which include a group according to the formula  $\text{-SO}_2\text{H}$  and second pendent groups which include a group according to the formula  $\text{-SO}_2\text{F}$ ; and

- f) converting said  $\text{-SO}_2\text{H}$  groups to  $\text{-SO}_2\text{Cl}$ .

21. (Original) The method according to claim 14 wherein the resulting polymer has an equivalent weight of less than 1200.

22.-52. (Canceled)